

REMARKS

Claim Amendments

Claim 7 is amended by replacing “comprises” with “consisting essentially of” derived from the specification as filed at, for example, Figure 1 and the corresponding description at paragraphs [0049] to [0054]. The limitation is not meant to exclude, for example, additional compression steps such as in paragraph [0012], or minor process variables necessary to carry out the major steps. No new matter is added.

Section 103 Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 7-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 6,303,841 to *Senetar et al.* The Applicant traverses, as the process in *Senetar* is much more complex and follows a different path than the currently claimed embodiment.

In particular, *Senetar* describes a process that includes two additional, separate steps. With reference to Figure 2 of *Senetar*, there is a separate CO₂ removal step (122), drying, demethanizing, then a second compression step with simultaneous hydrogenation (128). The resulting olefins come out separately: the propylene is isolated at stream 112, and the ethylene at the end in stream 119. Applicant, on the other hand, describes a process that does not include a CO₂ removal step or a selective hydrogenation step with a second, separate compression stage thereafter. And further, both ethylene and propylene are isolated together at the final stage of Applicant’s claimed embodiment where it can perhaps undergo further treatment if one desires to separate the ethylene from the propylene. The Applicants contend that a *prima facie* case of obviousness does not exist with respect to the amended claims.

Thus, Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants believe that the foregoing is a full and complete response to the Office Action of record. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the present claims meet all the requirements for patentability. Accordingly, an early and favorable reconsideration of the rejection, and allowance of the pending claims is requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Applicant's Deposit Account No. 05-1712 (Docket #: 2001B133), for any fees, including extension of time fees and excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

Respectfully submitted,

June 10, 2009

Date

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